

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 2, 9, 11-13, 15, 18, 19 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent Application No. EP 0 967 366 to Linnemeyer (“Linnemeyer”). Claim 16 was indicated as allowed. Finally, claims 3-8, 10, 14, 17, 20 and 21 were deemed to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of their respective base and intervening claims..

In this response, claims 2, 9, 11-13, 15, 18, 19 and 24 have been cancelled and claims 3, 4, 7, 10, 14, 17, and 20 have been amended. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 3-8, 10, 14, 17, 20 and 21 will be pending. Reconsideration of the application based on the amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Claims 3-8, 10, 14, 17, 20 and 21 were deemed to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of their respective base and intervening claims. Applicants have amended these claims to include all of the limitations of their respective base and independent claims.

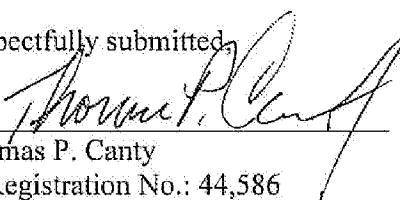
Applicants have amended claims 9, 13, 15 and 24 to change their dependencies to allowable claim 3. In addition, Applicants have amended claims 11, 12, 18 and 19 to change their dependencies to allowable claim 10. Claim 2 has been cancelled. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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